

## **Studies on Monstereae (Araceae) of Peninsular Malaysia I: *Rhaphidophora megasperma*, a New Record for West Malaysia**

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**Abstrak:** *Rhaphidophora megasperma* Engl., spesies yang dianggap hanya endemik di Sarawak kini dilaporkan sebagai satu rekod baru untuk Semenanjung Malaysia. Ini merupakan spesies pertama dari kumpulan *Rhaphidophora* Spathacea yang direkodkan di Sunda Barat. Ilustrasi dan kekunci untuk spesies lamina-berlubang *Rhaphidophora* untuk Semenanjung Malaysia telah dipamerkan.

**Kata kunci:** Araceae, *Rhaphidophora*, Borneo, Sarawak

**Abstract:** *Rhaphidophora megasperma* Engl., a species hitherto regarded as endemic to Sarawak, East Malaysia, is published as a new record for Peninsular Malaysia. It is the first species in the *Rhaphidophora* Spathacea group recorded for western Sunda. The species is illustrated and a key to the perforate-laminated *Rhaphidophora* in Peninsular Malaysia is presented.

**Keywords:** Araceae, *Rhaphidophora*, Borneo, Sarawak

## **INTRODUCTION**

*Rhaphidophora* for Peninsular Malaysia was revised in 1999, at which time 15 species were recognised (Boyce 1999), of which 2, *R. corneri* P.C.Boyce and *R. nicolsonii* P.C.Boyce were considered endemic. Subsequent revisions covered the remainder of Sunda, Wallacea, and Papuasia (Boyce 1999, 2000a, b, 2001a, b, 2005, 2006a, b). Since then fieldwork by the first author has revealed a number of Peninsular Malaysia *Rhaphidophora* that do not comfortably fit into any species covered by Boyce (1999). During a visit to Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in August 2009, the second author was shown one of the unplaced species and based on fieldwork experience in Sarawak, was able to assign it without doubt to *R. megasperma* Engl. This represents a new record for the species in Peninsular Malaysia, and further is the first record of the *Rhaphidophora* Spathacea group in west Sunda (see Boyce 2000a, 2001b for discussion of informal taxonomic units in *Rhaphidophora*).

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